

REMARKS

Claims 1-52 are currently pending. Claims 51-52 have been added. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 1-23, 30-36, and 47-50 contain allowable subject matter.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-23 and 47-48 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being incomplete. Specifically, the Examiner contends that the structural relationships between the reflective member and the translucent region are not described in sufficient detail.

Amended Claim 1 defines a lighting device that includes a linear light source having a longitudinal axis. The linear light source also includes a first end and a second end that define a light-emitting length therebetween. A translucent region is positioned substantially intermediate said first and said second ends. The translucent region has a length that is substantially less than the light-emitting length. A reflective member has an axis that is substantially coincident with said longitudinal axis. The reflective member is positioned intermediate said first end and said translucent region to direct light emitted from a substantial portion of said linear light source toward said translucent region.

Amended Claim 1 clearly locates the reflective member between the first end and the translucent region. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 is allowable. Dependent Claims 2-23, 47-48, and 51-52 depend from independent Claim 1 and are also allowable.

The Examiner rejected Claims 24-29, and 37-46 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Stob (U.S. Patent No. 4,991,070).

Claim 24 defines a lighting device including a linear light source having a first end and a second end. A translucent region is positioned substantially intermediate said first and said second ends. The translucent region completely surrounds a portion of the linear light source.

The lighting device also includes means for directing light emitted from said linear light source toward said translucent region. The directing means having a common longitudinal axis with said linear light source.

Fig. 1 of the present application illustrates one construction of the lighting device. The linear light source 4 extends along an axis and produces light. The translucent region 14 completely surrounds a portion of the linear light source 4.

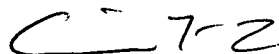
Stob does not teach or suggest a lighting device that includes, among other things, a translucent region that completely surrounds a portion of the linear light source. Rather, Stob teaches a light emitting device that includes a light-emitting element 26 that extends along a portion of, or the entire length of, the light source. As such, the translucent region of Stob does not completely surround any portion of the linear light source.

For these and other reasons, Stob fails to teach or suggest the subject matter defined by Claim 24. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 24 is allowable. Dependent claims 25-46, and 49-50 depend from independent Claim 24 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and allowance of claims 1-52.

Respectfully submitted,



Casimir F. Laska
Reg. No. 30,862

Docket No.: 031009-9043
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108
(414) 271-6560